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OUR VOICES

The Official Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter



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Newsletter Editor

Hello there!!!!

Welcome to the 2021 Term One newsletter. We had a number of activities that took place at both Chalo and Pestalozzi.

The term started on the back of the Covid -19 pandemic. For the better part of 2020, the nation grappled with the effects of this novel virus that had never been known before.

Schools were forced to close for the most part of 2020 and things were only just opening up at the beginning of 2021. It seems that the world is learning to live with the pandemic and the rules that come with it.

New practices such as masking up, sanitizing and social distancing are now becoming our way of life; Indeed the new normal. For the first time in my life I am witnessing people actually avoiding hand-shakes and embraces; practices which were almost second nature in the Zambian culture.

I must say however that the pandemic has forced the world to adapt technologically. We have seen the advent of conferencing facilities such as Zoom and Google Meet which in a number of cases we have used to participate in online classes.

Term One had many activities. Both Chalo and Pestalozzi participated in the Rise Program. We learnt a lot and had a lot of fun when recording the short videos and talking about our interests, passions, proposing solutions to Global Challenges and so much more.

There is so much to tell you and I hope you all enjoy it in this edition. I wish you happy reading.

Best wishes,

Racheal Phiri

2021 Term One Newsletter Editor



International Children's Day of Broadcasting - By Blessings Kasabo

It was on the 1st of March when I was told that Pestalozzi students were invited by "The Christian Nation FM radio."

The School picked some students who would go out for the 'International Children's Day of Broadcasting' at the station and I was one of the privileged few.

The program was about Children's rights and the Covid-19 pandemic. We were told to prepare to Rap, Present a Program and Perform Poetry.

Because I was told late about the program, I was a bit nervous of how I would perform.

In the run up to the program, I did my best to prepare and on the day of program we all did an amazing job and everything turned out okay.

I presented on the Childs Rights and how everyone ought to participate in advocating for them. The journalist at the studio was deeply amazed with our excellent work and at the end she made us sing a song titled "We are the world."





Smart Covid-19 Activities –By Monde Mukanda

Storytelling, riddles, gardening and learning something new were the activities I decided to do for my community service or family service. I was curious of the idea of how to do family service and how it would impact my family.

Every night before going to bed, we usually had riddles and traditional stories told in Illa and Tonga. Most of these stories related to the way of life of people in the past.

The riddles too were in a local language and one had to think really hard in order to crack them. We also played snakes and ladders and lastly, my grandfather decided to teach us about the history of cattle molding relating to tradition as part of learning something new. The activity was fun and educational.

The other activity I did with my family was gardening. We started a home garden where we planted vegetables and fruits for home consumption and to sell. This initiative helped our household to cut down on costs spent on vegetables, fruits and at the same time we received income through selling. The green sight of the garden is heartwarming and it's growing speedily.

By the end of my two weeks holiday everyone at home had a great time through sharing stories and other fun activities. It was fun to learn the history of my grandparents and how they lived. I am therefore looking for-ward to having the same experience next time.



The Rise Applications —

By Abraham Tembo

In 2019, Schmidt Futures co-founders Eric and Wendy Schmidt made a USD 1 billion philanthropic commitment to identify and support global talent. Therefore, Rise is an initiative of the Schmidt Futures, and the Rhodes Trust is the anchor program of that commitment.

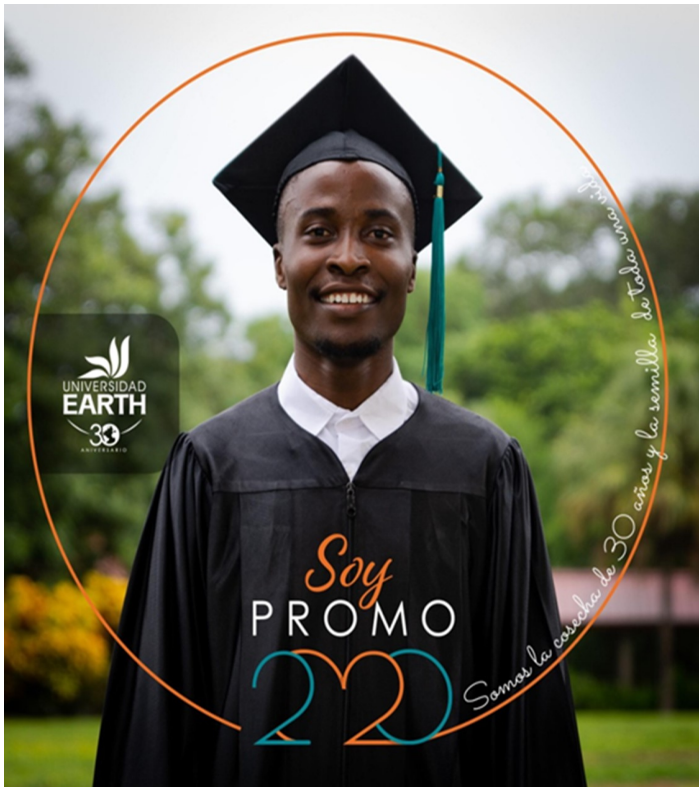
Rise is an online mobile application that is accessible to students who are aged between 15 to 17. It consists of four stages upon which 500 finalists are selected for an opportunity that lasts a lifetime.

The benefits of being picked for this scholarship are estimated to exceed USD 500,000 for each student. The benefits include Education Support, participation in the Residential Summit, inclusion in the Global Winners Network, Mentorship and Career Services and Funding Opportunities.

The Rise application was quite an experience. It marked the first international application I was eligible to apply for and therefore, I was a little bit nervous.

The application was divided into four stages and each stage was to be video recorded. As students we picked areas or challenges in our society that we are passionate about and move us the most. We then proceeded to carry out research to ascertain how our immediate communities felt about the problems we had identified and were then tasked to propose solutions to those challenges.

As a first-time applicant, I was afraid to apply because I did not know how to make my work perfect. I was afraid of making a mistake and looking incompetent before the recipients of my application. However, I must state that I am so happy to have successfully concluded the application and being among the very first Zambian applicants.



My Earth Experience —

By Armand Yambisa

My name is Armand Yambisa, a 2015 Kucetekela Foundation alumnus. Upon completion of my O-Level Program (National Secondary School Education Program) at Pestalozzi Education Cen-tre, I was awarded a full MasterCard Foundation Scholarship to study Agri-culture Sciences and Natural Re-sources Management at EARTH Uni-versity in Costa Rica. I flew to Costa Rica in August 2016 for my Spanish Immersion Program to learn Spanish before the commencement of the academic year.

I resided with a Spanish-only speaking foster family to facilitate my learning of the language. This was such a challenging phase as I could not communicate effectively, and the process of adapting was equally difficult. This is because of the strong cultural and geographical differences.

First Year at Earth University

The curriculum was shared equally between theory and practicals. Every week (Wednesdays and Saturdays), we worked in different work experience modules which included community outreach, farms, and laboratories.

This was very important as it helped students not only realize the importance and applicability of agriculture science, but also gain work experience equivalent to professional work.

Agricultural Projects

In my second year, I joined a team of fellow students who were running a project called Dirt to Power Initiative. This initiative was designed to tackle food insecurity, and participation of youths in agriculture,

We even presented the project at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an annual conference which was hosted by the Clintons at Chicago University for 5 days in 2018. This made me a commitment maker and student member of the CGI till date.

Local and International Internships

For my second-year internship, I worked in agrotourism at a hotel in the Alajuela Province.

In my third year, the first internship was in agrotourism at EARTH University campus in Guanacaste. Here too I worked in agrotourism. For my main internship I worked at the University of Florida under the department of entomology and nematology.

Awards

I had the privilege of gaining some recognition for some outstanding performances in various spheres. I took a three-year long agriprenuership course, where we established a fruit dehydrating business. Our project got first place at the yearly agribusiness summit.



I was also awarded the Distinguished Student Award for exceptional personal qualities and academic performances in my 3rd and 4th years.

During graduation, I received the Heliconia Prize which recognizes the two fourth-year students who fully embody what it means to be an EARTH graduate.

I graduated with Honors at my graduation making me one of the only two Africans who reached this milestone.



Meeting with my Mentor

By Faith Chompwe

In the first week after Term One ended, I was informed that I was going to meet my mentor. At first, I was a bit nervous because I had never had a mentor before and this was going to be my first time.

When my friend Ruth and I arrived at the KF office, Joanna and Catherine – our mentors walked in. They were so beautiful and had very wonderful personalities. Their demeanor reassured me that this was going to be a fun afternoon and all my earlier nervousness seemed to just disappear. I was excited.

They took us to a nearby mall for a snack as we got acquainted. Our short trip to the mall was filled with much conversation on different things. They asked questions about our backgrounds, our families, siblings and our future aspirations. We also took turns to ask them questions on where they worked and the countries where they hailed from.

The conversation switched to fun things about favorite colors, movies, musicians etc.



Despite the very glaring age gap, they made us so comfortable. Lost in the conversation, before long we were heading back to the office. On our way there, they encouraged us to work hard and focus on our studies. They emphasised on the importance of knowing one self and while accepting one's flaws, leveraging on their strengths. We said our good byes for that day. Joanna and Catherine paid us a further three visits while we were in school and our friendship bond grew. Our mentors possessed the quality of passing across important life lessons in the most fun way. They taught some social etiquette tips and how to be a lady.

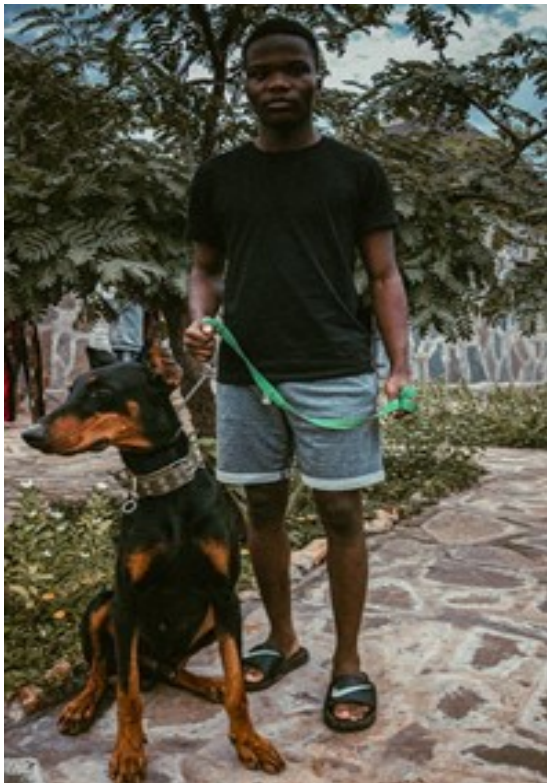
We are really grateful for our mentors and we look forward to more times together.

The Gap Year Retreat – By Mervis Banda

One of the finest and most satisfying adventures of my life so far was the trip to Chibombo District, in the center of Zambia, at Our Moon, a nonprofit that provides education and guidance programs to Gap year students. I was so excited when Kucetekela Foundation organized the Gap year student retreat.

It took us three hours to reach Chibombo. Getting there, I was really amazed to see the beauty of the place. It seemed to me as if nature has wrapped itself with a green shawl. I knew that this was the best place for me to have fun, get in touch with who I really was and gain knowledge about the life of a Gap year student and how to make the most of this period. I must say I gained a lot of knowledge.

The topic about identity was my favorite. It talked about knowing yourself, accepting who you are and embracing yourself to find happiness and satisfaction in life.



I enjoyed this topic because it reminded me of the traditional folktale I read in my eighth grade of a man who became so afraid of his shadow. He believed that the only way he could be happy was if he could run away from it. He tried so hard to escape and in his efforts he ended his own life.

What the man did not realize was that if he had sat to rest in the shade, this shadow would have disappeared and he would no longer be troubled. All this knowledge gave me a profoundly different understanding of the path to freedom.

The Student Exchange Program

The Chalo Trust School Students and Pestalozzi Education Centre Students in April, visited Kapwelyomba Primary School and Prince Takamado Primary School, both in Lusaka. The purpose of the visits was to introduce the Student Exchange Program to their colleagues with the main purpose of this ex-change program being to encourage interaction between the primary school students in the community and the KF students from Pestalozzi and Chalo Trust School.

During these visits, the students engaged in a number of exhilarating activities. It was a breath of fresh air to see students put on their academic caps and showcase their artistic and extra-curricular skills. The activities ranged from poems, songs, skits and intellectual exchanges.



The topics that were covered ranged from the Covid-19 pandemic and the myths surrounding it. The students therefore used skits to educate themselves on the need to take the pandemic seriously, take preventive measures such as masking, use of hand sanitizers and employ social distancing.

The atmosphere at the program was filled with fun fare and wisdom.

Students made new friends, they laughed and inspired one another to aim for great heights. Oswald challenged the students from Kapwelyomba to embrace the culture of hard work and discipline. They appealed to the primary school students to aspire for the KF scholarship as it had had tremendous impact upon their lives.

At Prince Takamado, Emmanuel Mutambo stole the show with an impromptu poetry citation. The main message in his poem was to encourage his peers to steer clear of the victim mentality and a disposition of self-pity. He encouraged boldness in the pursuit of one's dreams.

The students gave some information about their roots and traditions. They exchanged information about their tribes and culture. The idea was to get rid of the idea of tribalism and regionalism and reinforce the idea of national unity and unity in diversity.

All in all, the two visits to the two schools were fruitful and left indelible marks in the lives of the students and each of them gained a new friend that day.

KF IS HONOURED WITH A VISIT FROM MR. JERE – FATHER TO GRACE JERE A KF ALUMNI

KF has been in existence for 15 years now and it's remarkable to note how some parents are still appreciative and supportive of KF. KF was honored with a visit from one of the alumni's parent, Mr. Jere who has carried KF in his heart and has always been in contact.



Mr. Jere has continued to acknowledge the organization for all the support that has been rendered to his daughter, Grace Jere who is a recent graduate from Kaliningrad State Technical University in Russia where she was pursuing a Degree in Food Biotechnology. To Mr. Jere, this is the greatest achievement to both him and his daughter. He expressed how happy he is for the great morals KF instilled in his daughter and the great discipline that has made her reach this far.

According to Mr. Jere, the life circumstances of his family could not allow him to educate all his children and that is the major reason he never stops to acknowledge and appreciate KF for lifting the weight off the family. He said his daughter has been educated in all facets of life. He attests that his daughter has and will continue to be a role model to her siblings, community and the world at large.



Mr. Jere's visit is one that still echoes in each one of us who listened to his sentiments about change of mindset and sacrificial giving. He is one of the people who blessed KF with chairs and tables through his carpentry skills. He really stressed the importance of giving even from the little one has, and his attitude of giving has been evident because he has continued to extend that which he has with KF.

This year, after his farm harvest, he brought fresh groundnuts and pumpkins for the KF staff. He wished to have carried more if only he had means of transport but this still did not stop him from bringing even the little that he could. to extend that which he has with KF.

He walked a distance from his home to the KF office just to deliver this gift. Mr. Jere taught the alumni present during his visit, a change of mindset. If Mr. Jere who is almost in his late 60s could walk from his home and better still think of ways to continue appreciating KF, then the alumni who are young and more innovative can duplicate this act and do even more.

KF is grateful for this visit and it was very impactful because it served as a reminder of all the great work done. Mr. Jere is also a new network for KF as he offered to take part in any KF activities where his skills might be needed and will continue to make KF famous so that more people get to know about KF and its wonderful work.

Our Alumni who Left For School



Martin Milanzi Leaving to Study Chemical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Harriet Mwanza Leaving for African Leadership University to Study Computer Science



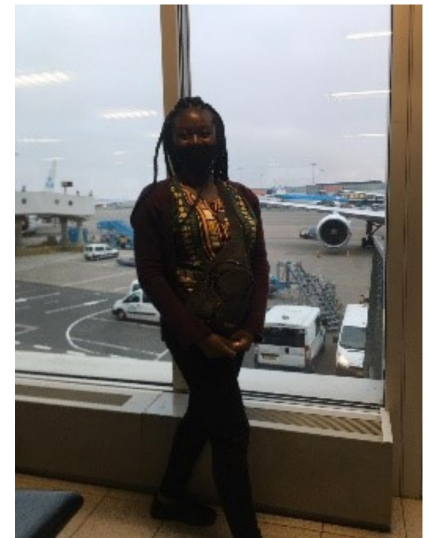
Jackson Kakwenya Leaving to Study Computer Engineering at Johnson C. Smith Institute



Emmanuel Chanda Leaving to do His A - Levels at the African Leadership Academy



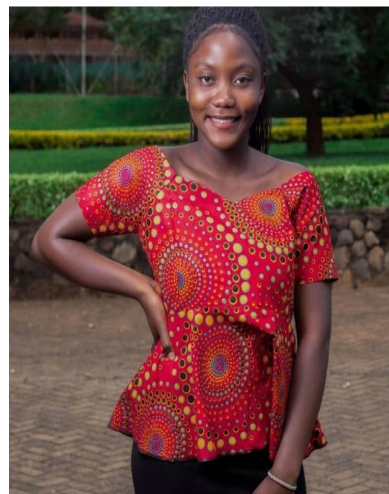
Rabeca Ndhlovu Leaving for Wartburg College to Study Economics



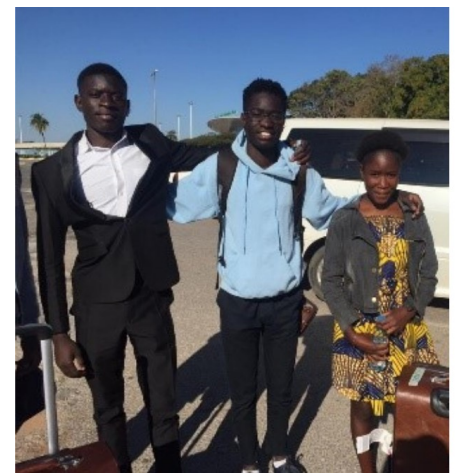
Faith Sakala Leaving for Earth University to Study Agricultural Engineering



Mercy Mulenga at the United States International University - Africa Where She is Studying Epidemiology and Biostatistics



Faith Mulenga at the United States International University- Africa. Where She is Studying Business Administration



Terry Chishimba Leaving for United World College(UWC) - Robert Bosch College to do His International Baccalaureate

We are on the web! Visit us at <https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/>

Kucetekela Foundation is an organization that sponsors talented, high-achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience and community service programs.

All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us.

Our Team:

Officer	Designation
Dr. Oliver Barry	Co-founder and President
Dr. Florence Lutale Nkowane	Co-founder and Executive Director
Mr. Simasiku Mukena	Co-Founder and Finance and Administration Manager
Mr. Joshua N. Kamelu	Programs Manager
Ms. Barbara Kifokola	Alumni Intern
Ms. Edna Phiri	Alumni Intern
Mr. Nchimunya Mukuwa	Gap Year Intern
Mr. Lazarous Moyo	Gap Year Intern

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please use our donation link:

<https://www.kucetekelafoundation.org/donate/>

Or contact Dr. Florence Nkowane @ +260971594959,
kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.